



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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December 29, 2005

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – FLORENCE
CRITTENTON CENTER GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Florence Crittenton Center Group Home operated by Florence Crittenton Center. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Florence Crittenton Center Group Home is a fifty-nine bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 12–17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Florence Crittenton Center Group Home was providing services for 19 Los Angeles County DCFS children and 14 Los Angeles County Probation children.

Florence Crittenton Center Group Home is located in the Third District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

The Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Florence Crittenton Center Group Home needs to provide safety screens and/or barriers to the bedroom windows to ensure the safety of the children.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Steven Schultz, Executive Director, Florence Crittenton Center
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Florence Crittenton Center Group Home
234 East Avenue 33
Los Angeles, California 90031
Phone: 323 225-4211
License Number: 191801788
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Florence Crittenton Center Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. However, the bedroom windows do not have safety screens or barriers necessary to help ensure the safety of children.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

- 1. Florence Crittenton Center Group Home Management install screens or barriers on bedroom windows to help ensure the safety of children.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Three

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Three

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Three

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given the opportunity to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Three

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Three

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.



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Attachment
1 of 1

September 19, 2005

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
CHILDREN'S GROUP HOME OMBUDSMAN
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, California 90012-2766
Attention: Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor

Reference: Florence Crittenton Center #191801788

Dear Ms. Rhue:

The following letter is to inform you that Florence Crittenton Center (FCC hereinafter) did receive the form that advises this Agency of our right for an exit conference and Audit narrative with Recommendations, on September 12, 2005, directly after our conversation.

As stated in our conversation, FCC declines the option for an exit interview. The in Section 1, Facility and Environment; Recommendation Item #1, referencing the Installation of screens or barriers in bedroom windows is being addressed. As this recommendation may require structural changes the Implementation of this request will be completed by December 31, 2005.

Respectfully,



Tom L. Taylor M.A.
Senior Supervisor
Group Home Administrator